Chapter 10

10. INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

10-1 Integrating Natural Resource Programs

This INRMP provides the framework for an ecosystem approach to natural resources management. Chapters 12 through 18 address the monitoring, protection, management, and conservation of natural resources. The former military natural resources planning philosophy of separating fish and wildlife, land management, forestry, ITAM, and other programs has evolved into integrated, ecosystem-based management of all natural resources.

Natural resources management has never been split into separate organizations on Fort Greely. Land management, forest management, and fish and wildlife management have grown together for over 25 years. The ITAM program is a recent addition to this program integration. In 1972 Fort Greely was one of the first installations to integrate natural resources and environmental compliance into a single organization. This INRMP continues that trend of program integration.

USARAK has been conducting baseline studies and preparing management plans for over two decades for Fort Greely. This document ties these supporting documents into a single, integrated program. GIS is being used to make data more accessible to the entire ERD, others participating in ecosystem management partnerships, and military planners.

Table 10-1 describes the traditional natural resource programs and their components, cross-referenced with sections and chapters where they occur in this INRMP.

Table 10-1. INRMP Program Matrix

	Inventory and Monitoring	Protection and Damage Prevention	Management	Awareness
Land Management	Soil Survey (12-2a) Wetland Survey (12-2b) Floristic Survey (12-2c) Ecological Land Classification (12-2d) Water Quality Monitoring (12-3c)	Special Interest Areas (13-4b) Wildfire Suppression (13-3b) Prescribed Burning (13-3c)	Section 404 Consult (14-4b) Wetland Mgmt (14-4c) Erosion Control (14-5b) Cantonment Area Mgmt (14-6) Pest Mgmt (14-7)	Natural and Cultural Resources Education and Awareness (15-2a)
ITAM	LCTA (12-3b(2)) Military Impacts (12-3d)	EA (13-2a) TRI (13-2b)	LRAM (14-5c)	EA (13-2a)
Forestry	Forest Inventory (12-2e)		Forest Ecosystem	

10-2 Integrated Training Area Management

The ITAM program has been developed and implemented since publication of previous natural resources management plans for Fort Greely. Individual components of ITAM are described within Chapters 12-14. However, below is a general description of the ITAM program as a whole.

Program Description. Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) is an Army-wide program to provide quality training environments to support the Army's military mission. ITAM monitors the quality of training lands, provides data needed to make land use decisions, creates an awareness among land users of the importance of good land stewardship, prevents damage to land, and repairs damaged lands. The goal of ITAM is to maximize mission use of training lands, minimize land maintenance costs and damage caused to the environment, and effectively meet natural resource management requirements.

Program Responsibilities. USARAK DPTSM is the proponent for ITAM. The DPTSM Range Manager also acts as the ITAM Program Manager and has responsibilities to plan and budget for the program. The ITAM Coordinator and the ITAM team are part of USARAK DPW Natural Resources and are responsible for meeting the objectives of the ITAM program.

Program Objectives. Goals and objectives specific to ITAM are found in the ITAM Program Strategy.

These have been modified specifically for USARAK needs as follows:

- Ensure no net loss in the capability of installation lands to support existing and projected military missions in USARAK.

  (a) Provide current and predictive natural resources information that will affect decision-making.

  (b) Distribute activities such as military training, recreation, restoration of training damage, and habitat management to minimize conflicts with each other.

  (c) Manage training spaces, training strategies, and environmental conditions to sustain training readiness of Army forces.

  (d) Establish a baseline of training area and ranges required and available at USARAK installations, including all future training requirements based on force structure changes and new equipment fielding plans.

- Maintain quality training lands through damage minimization, mitigation, education and restoration.

  (a) Foster a conservation ethic in those who use USARAK lands to minimize damage to natural resources.

  (b) Restore training areas and provide improved troop training environments that can sustain training indefinitely.

- Maintain a database of natural and cultural resources by storing, compiling, and maintaining spatial and tabular data on the Geographic Information System.

- Conduct periodic monitoring of the resources that are important indicators of overall ecosystem integrity and capability of lands to support military missions by (1) identifying impacts on resources (spatial analysis) by trainers/testers and non-military land users at various intensities (activities, frequency, and duration), and (2) identifying and prioritizing resource restoration, rehabilitation, and revegetation areas to ensure sustainable training and testing.

- Provide natural resources/land condition information that may affect force structuring and stationing decisions at Major Command (MACOM) and Department of Army (DA) levels.

Program Components. The ITAM program is built around four components:

1. Land Condition-Trend Analysis (LCTA*)*, which provides for collecting, inventorying, monitoring, and analyzing data concerning vegetation, disturbance, and land conditions on Fort Greely. A description of the LCTA program and LCTA projects is found in Section 12-3b.

2. Training Requirements Integration (TRI), which integrates training requirements with land condition trends, derived from LCTA. A description of the TRI program and projects is found in Section 13-2b.

3. Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM), which combines preventive and corrective land rehabilitation and maintenance practices to reduce the impacts of training and testing on an installation. A description of the LRAM program and LRAM projects can be found in Section 14-5c.

4. Environmental Awareness (EA), which provides a means to develop and distribute to land users educational materials related to the sound environmental stewardship of natural and cultural resources, thereby reducing the potential for inflicting avoidable impacts. A description of the EA program and projects can be found in Section 13-2a.